



# *State Senator* **NANCY CASSIS** *E-NEWS UPDATE*

## **Happy New Year!**

We begin 2006 with some good news: Michigan ended last year with a balanced budget that included tax relief for the struggling manufacturing sector. This is step one to improve a state economy that continues to languish.

Next week the Legislature will formally return to session and the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference will take place. The conference will reach agreement on economic forecasts and anticipated state revenues for fiscal year 2007. These figures will be integral in determining the next state budget.

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and I are committed to a government that lives within its means. It is also essential for us to provide further tax relief to help stimulate the economy.

Entrepreneurs are key to creating new jobs in Michigan and growing our economy. For this reason, we will shortly be announcing tax relief for small businesses, the major job providers for Michiganians.

Another component of economic growth is education. A skilled work force is the foundation upon which our economy will grow. It is a little-known fact that in many parts of Michigan, there is actually a labor shortage for workers in good paying jobs within the skilled trades. Our top priorities are to advance educational standards for students of diverse talents and interests.

The Economy, Education and Entrepreneurship, or the Three "E's", are the keys to Michigan's recovery and will be my focus in the new year.

In the next month, I will hold annual meetings with local officials from the 15<sup>th</sup> Senate District to discuss thoughts and concerns regarding their issues.

I wish you and your family a healthy and happy 2006!

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### **Contact Information:**

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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